

Inventing the Modern State: Russia and China in the 20th century.

Lecture 1. Russia and China : The Great Revolutions

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Russia and China : The Great Revolutions

- A. Comparisons, Consequences and Contradictions
- B. 19th century European revolutions [1848, 1870, Industrial]
- C. The creation of Marxist thought

Why are these the Great Ones?

- Scale: size and population
- Global impact
- Self-consciousness of the revolutionaries
- True social revolutions
- Protracted process

The Russian Empire in 1800

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Please see any map of Russian expansion
between 1533 and 1796, such as
http://www.bartleby.com/67/russia03.html

The Qing Empire in 1800

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The Revolutionary Process: Russia

- The Romanov Dynasty – 1613-1917
- Russia loses the Sino-Japanese War, 1905
- February Revolution, 1917
- October Revolution, 1917
- The end? 1924? 1927? 1956?

The Revolutionary Process: China

- The Qing Dynasty – 1636 – 1911
- Rebellions and invasion: 1842, 1850-60, 1895, 1900
- Collapse of the Qing – 1911
- Nationalist China – 1911 – 2000
- Unification of mainland China - 1927
- People’s Republic of China – 1949 -
- The End: 1927? 1949? 1978? 2000? Never?

Contradictions of Revolutionary Socialism: 1

- **What They Wanted**:
- Destruction of nation states, international working class solidarity
- **What They Got**:
- Even more powerful nation- states

Contradictions: 2

- **What They Wanted**:
- Abolition of inequality, social justice, and state oppression

- **What They Got**:
- New unequal society, dictatorship of one party

Contradictions: 3

- **What They Wanted**:
- The replacement of capitalist social relations with communities of equal workers, guided by a new theory of social change
- **What They Got**:
- Rampant consumer capitalism, supported by nominally “socialist” states.

2. Three European revolutions and the Rise of Revolutionary Thought

- 1848: the “springtime of nations”
- 1870: The Franco Prussian war and the Paris Commune
- 1780 - The Industrial “Revolution”

Napoleon (1769 – 1821) : Hero and Emperor

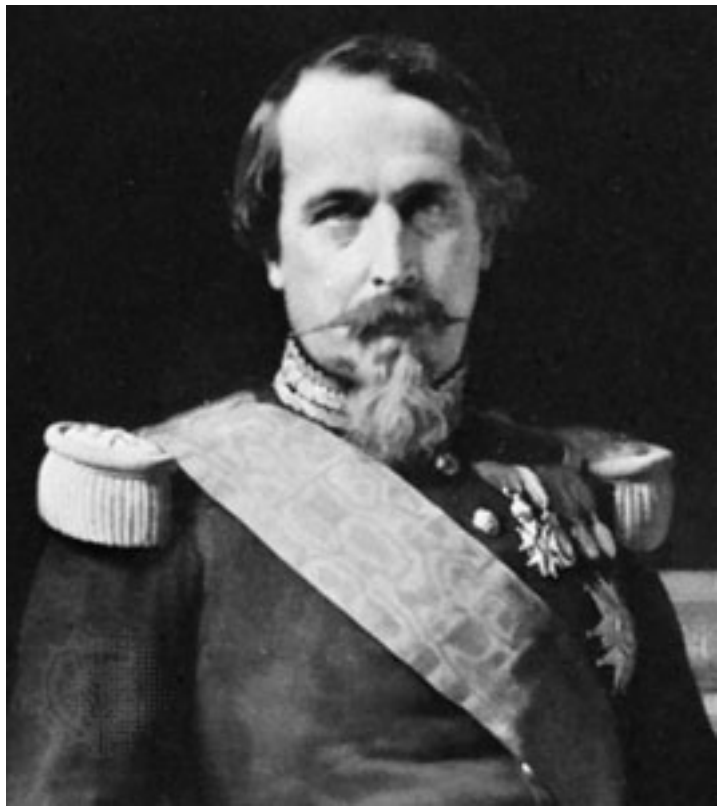




1848: A Revolution IS a Dinner Party

(Mikhail Bakunin : Louis Napoleon)





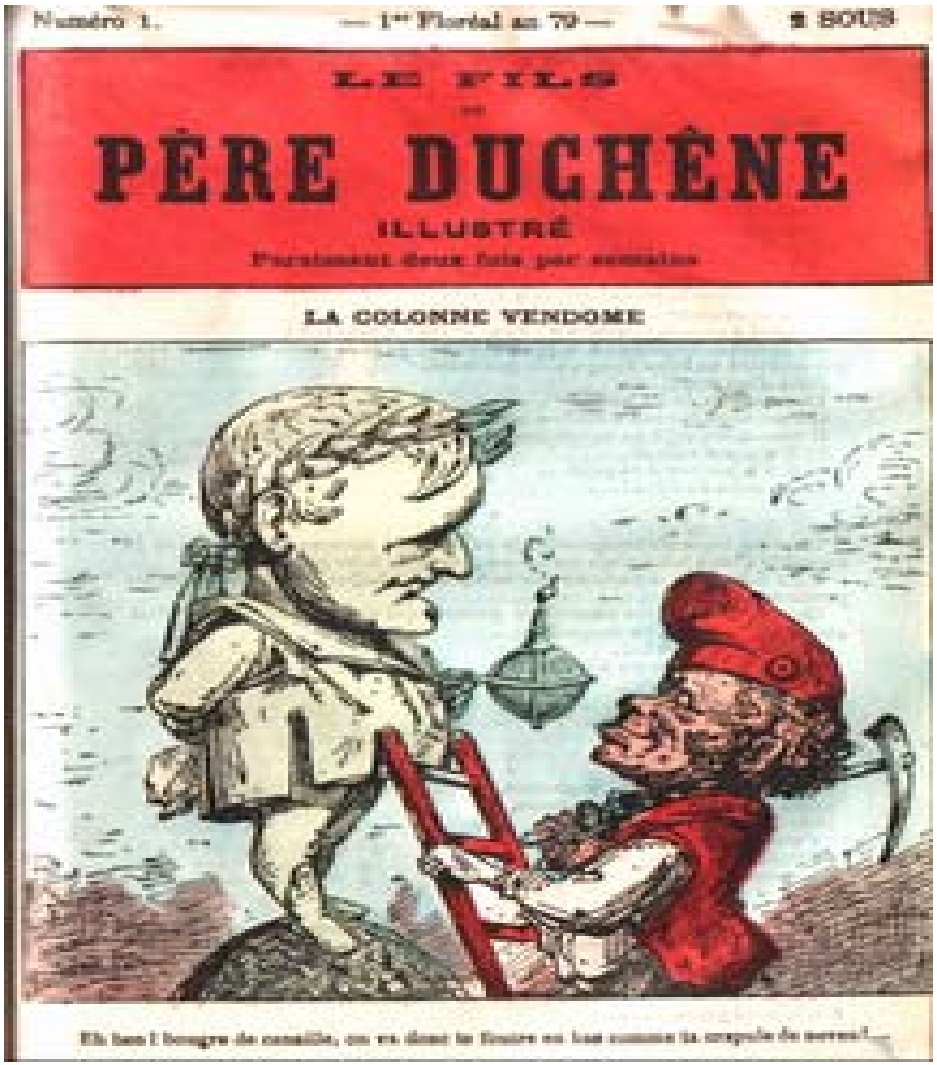
The Barricades Again



Marx on the 1848 Revolution

- “Hegel remarks somewhere that all facts and personages of great importance in world history occur, as it were, twice. He forgot to add: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce….Men make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please; they do not make it under circumstances chosen by themselves, but under circumstances directly encountered, given, and transmitted from the past. The tradition of all the dead generations weighs like a nightmare on the brain of the living. And just when they seem engaged in revolutionizing themselves and things, in creating something that has never yet existed, precisely in such periods of revolutionary crisis they anxiously conjure up the spirits of the past to their service and borrow from them names, battle cries, and costumes in order to present the new scene of world history in this time-honored disguise and this borrowed language.” Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*.

A Worker's View of the Napoleons, 1870



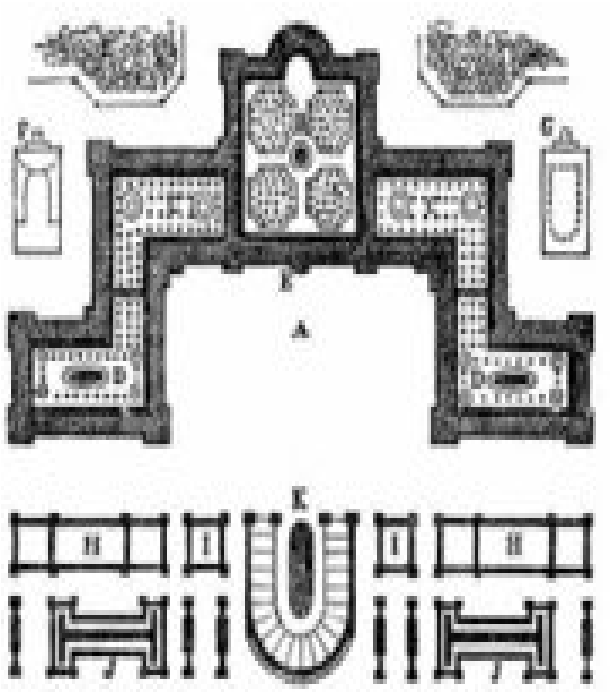
In Memory of the Dead Communards



The Formation of Marxist Thought

- 1. English Political Economy [Smith, Ricardo, Malthus]
- 2. French Utopian Socialism [St. Simon, Fourier, Proudhon, Bakunin]
- 3. German Idealist Philosophy [Hegel]

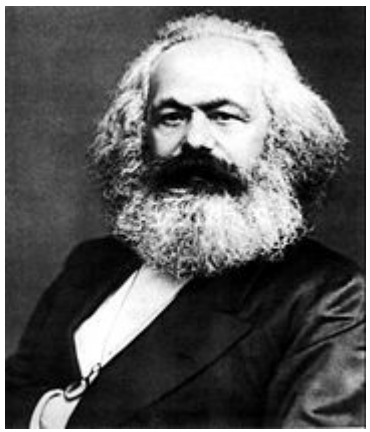
French Socialists: Fourier, St. Simon, Proudhon







The Marxist Prediction of Capitalism's Collapse



- " Along with the constantly diminishing number of the magnates of capital, who usurp and monopolize all advantages of this process of transformation, grows the mass of misery, oppression, slavery, degradation, exploitation; but with this too grows the revolt of the working-class, a class always increasing in numbers, and disciplined, united, organized by the very mechanism of the process of capitalist production itself. The monopoly of capital becomes a fetter upon the mode of production, which has sprung up and flourished along with, and under it. Centralization of the means of production and socialization of labor at last reach a point where they become incompatible with their capitalist integument. Thus integument is burst asunder. The knell of capitalist private property sounds. The expropriators are expropriated."

International Socialism: The Early Years

- First International: (1864-1876): Anarchists vs. Socialists

- Second International (1889-1916)
  - May 1: International Workers' Day
  - The Internationale

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The Internationale

- **Stand up, all victims of oppression,**
  For the tyrants fear your might!
  Don't cling so hard to your possessions,
  For you have nothing if you have no rights!
  Let racist ignorance be ended,
  For respect makes the empires fall!
  Freedom is merely privilege extended,
  Unless enjoyed by one and all.

- **So come brothers and sisters,**
  For the struggle carries on.
  The Internationale,
  Unites the world in song.
  So comrades, come rally,
  For this is the time and place!
  The international ideal,
  Unites the human race.

- **Let no one build walls to divide us,**
  Walls of hatred nor walls of stone.
  Come greet the dawn and stand beside us,
  We'll live together or we'll die alone.
  In our world poisoned by exploitation,
  Those who have taken, now they must give!
  And end the vanity of nations,
  We've but one Earth on which to live.

- **So come brothers and sisters,**
  For the struggle carries on.
  The Internationale,
  Unites the world in song.
  So comrades, come rally,
  For this is the time and place!
  The international ideal,
  Unites the human race.

The Internationale (Finale)

- **And so begins the final drama,**
  In the streets and in the fields.
  We stand unbowed before their armour,
  We defy their guns and shields!
  When we fight, provoked by their aggression,
  Let us be inspired by life and love.
  For though they offer us concessions,
  Change will not come from above!

- **So come brothers and sisters,**
  For the struggle carries on.
  The Internationale,
  Unites the world in song.
  So comrades, come rally,
  For this is the time and place!
  The international ideal,
  Unites the human race.